

Q.

What is a Green Community ?

A.

A Green Community is working towards a sustainable future with a healthy environment, a strong economy, and a high quality of life. Green Communities strive to:

- ★ Comply with environmental regulations, reduce their consumption of natural resources and practice pollution prevention
- ★ Actively involve all citizens and incorporate local values into decision-making
- ★ Support locally-based businesses
- ★ Encourage walking, biking, and mass transit
- ★ Provide open space
- ★ Encourage citizens and businesses to work together with government towards a common vision of the future

Q.

What does EPA Region III's Green Communities Program include ?

A.

- ★ Green Communities Assistance Kit at <http://www.epa.gov/greenkit>
- ★ Green Communities Designation Program
- ★ Demonstration Projects
- ★ Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations
- ★ Training Workshops

Q.

What are the steps in becoming a Green Community ?

A.

There are 5 steps:

1. **Where Are We Now?** The community does a self-assessment.
2. **Where Are We Going?** The community looks at its trends.
3. **Where Do We Want to Be?** The community develops a common vision of their future.
4. **How Do We Get There?** The community develops action plans.
5. **Let's Go!** Plans are implemented.

Q.

What is in the Green Communities Assistance Kit ?

A.

The kit, which is located on the Internet, walks the user through the 5-step process noted above. Tools, other resources, case studies, etc. are provided for each step.

Q.

How can my community become designated as an EPA Participating Green Community ?

A.

Complete steps 1 thorough 4 (planning), begin step 5 (implementation of plans), and submit an application for review. For more information go to <http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/apply.htm> or contact us directly for a hard copy of the application.

Q.

What are the advantages of becoming an EPA Participating Green Community ?

A.

1. Prior to Designation
 - ★ Training by EPA on the use of the Green Communities Assistance Kit
 - ★ EPA and/or its partners will offer recommendations and highlight others' successful approaches that can be adapted to your community's particular needs
2. At Designation
 - ★ A joint Community-EPA press release (increased visibility for your local sustainability initiatives)
 - ★ A Green Communities certificate signed by the EPA Regional Administrator
 - ★ A highway-approved city limit or town center sign that reads, "Your Community, A Participating Green Community, in cooperation with US EPA and other sponsors"
 - ★ Your Success Story included in the Green Communities Assistance Kit
3. On-Going Benefits
 - ★ Opportunities to learn through networking with others pursuing sustainability
 - ★ Timely information about EPA grant funds that could help support your sustainability efforts
 - ★ Status that can serve to leverage additional support and resources

Q.
Can EPA help us by providing money to hire a consultant or money to implement changes ?

A.
Although the Green Communities Program does not provide grants, we have included information on financial resources, such as public and private grant programs, in the Assistance Kit. Check out <http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/finance.htm> for more funding information.

Q.
Can EPA help us in becoming a Green Community by providing direct technical assistance ?

A.
The Green Communities Assistance Kit provides tools and information that can help. We have also trained and continue to train community-based assistance providers, such as non-profit organizations, cooperative extension services, educators, and planners, so that they can help communities directly. EPA Region III does, however, work directly with some communities on demonstration projects and may be able to link a community with partners that can offer assistance.

Q.
How can I get hard (paper) copies of the Green Communities Assistance Kit to distribute to my community ?

A.
The kit is not available in hard copy; it is only available on the Internet. One of the reasons the kit is so helpful is that it links to over 600 other web sites. This important aspect would be lost in a paper version. We do, however, have some handouts we can provide.

Q.
How can I get more information ?

A.
Contact:
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Visit EPA Region III's Green Communities Assistance Kit at:
<http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/>

THE US
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
&
COMMUNITY-BASED
ENVIRONMENTAL
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(C B E P)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR GREEN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

US EPA REGION III
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